

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 211463

E.O. 11652:GDS.

TAGS:ACOM, PFOR, MY

SUBJECT: OPERATION OF DIPLOMATIC RADIO TRANSMITTERS IN
KUALA LUMPUR.

MANILA FOR RCO AND ATO.

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4419

1. SINCE THE EMBASSY IS NOW OPERATING AND HAS OPERATED A
RADIO TRANSMITTER IN KUALA LUMPUR, WITHOUT PERMISSION OF
THE GOM FOR MANY YEARS, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES MFA NOTE SHOULD
BE USED AS THE FIRST STEP TO LEGITIMATIZE OPERATION.

2. REPLY SHOULD BE MADE, CONTAINING THE TECHNICAL DATA RE-
QUESTED IN REFERENCED NOTE, ASKING GOM TO APPROVE OPERATION
OF OUR EXISTING STATION WHICH MEET TERMS AND CONDITIONS
OUTLINED IN NOTE. IF APPROVAL IS CONDITIONED ON RECIPROCAL
RIGHTS, WE ARE PREPARED TO INITIATE SUCH ACTION.

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3. GOM SHOULD BE AWARE RECIPROCAL RADIO RIGHTS IN U.S. ARE SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED. BASIC LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR AUTHORIZING A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE A RADIO TRANSMITTER IN U.S. IS PL87-795, 75STAT, 903 OCTOBER 11, 1962. LEGISLATION

EMPOWERS THE PRESIDENT TO AUTHORIZE A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A LOW POWER RADIO STATION AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S. AT OR NEAR THE SITE OF THE EMBASSY OF SUCH FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. THIS AUTHORIZATION IS SUBJECT TO THE CONDITION THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RADIO STATION IS IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT CONCERNED HAS PROVIDED RECIPROCAL PRIVILEGES TO THE US. THE PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY HAS BEEN DELEGATED TO THE DIRECTOR OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT. SUCH AN AUTHORIZATION CAN BE MADE ONLY UPON THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

4. LEGAL AUTHORITY PERMITS ONLY THE OPERATION OF HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO - TELETYPE FACILITIES. IT DOES NOT PERMIT OPERATION OF VHF MOBILE RADIO NETS OR SIMILAR OPERATIONS. CERTAIN TECHNICAL RESTRICTIONS ARE LEVIED UPON THE OPERATION OF SUCH A RADIO FACILITY REGARDING POWER OUTPUT, FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENT, MODE OF TRANSMISSION, ETC.

5. PROCESSING ABOVE PROCEDURES TAKES APPROXIMATELY 4 TO 6 MONTHS, WHICH IS TIME REQUIRED TO COORDINATE AND OBTAIN NECESSARY INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL APPROVALS.

6. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE MALAYSIAN EMBASSY DOES NOT OPERATE RADIO FACILITIES IN WASHINGTON. DUE TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND EXPENSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF SUCH A FACILITY, IT IS QUESTIONABLE THEY WOULD BE INCLINED TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A PROJECT. AVAILABILITY OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES PROVIDED BY U.S. COMMERCIAL CARRIERS ALLEVIATE NEED FOR SUCH EMBASSY FACILITIES. THERE ARE ONLY 18 EMBASSY STATIONS AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN WASHINGTON AND ONLY 10 OF THESE OPERATE WITH ANY REGULARITY. THE REMAINING ARE FOR STANDBY OR EMERGENCY USE ONLY.

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7. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING - IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THE GOM WILL OPERATE A RADIO TRANSMITTER HERE BUT MAY GRANT US RADIO RIGHTS FOR OUR PRESENT OPERATION AND RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR RECIPROCAL PRIVILEGES AT A LATER DATE - SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

8. EMBASSY SHOULD REVIEW SITUATION AND RESPOND TO NOTE

ACCORDINGLY, USING OWN DISCRETION ON RELEASE OF INFORMATION.

9. ATO - MANILA WILL PROVIDE THE EMBASSY ALL THE TECHNICAL DATA NEEDED TO RESPOND TO THE GOM NOTE.

10. PLEASE KEEP DEPT. ADVISED OF POST ACTIONS AND FORWARD COPIES ALL NOTES EXCHANGED. KISSINGER

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